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The Centennial of the Capital.

The work of providing for a proper celebration of the capital centennial is well in hand, as attested by the large gathering of governors in this city today to confer with the congressional and the local committees in charge of the project. This is a truly remarkable assemblage, one which has in this or any other city. It is exceptionspect, the blending of the state and the federal authority, while the citizens of the nation's city act as hosts. It would be well for the republic if such conferences uld be held regularly, with the governors gathering here to discuss interstate and national affairs, to seek solutions for trying problems, to find ways to foster progress and patriotism, to advance, in short, the best interests both of the commonwealths

This meeting is for the purpose of con sidering ways and means of celebrating the removal of the seat of government from Philadelphia to Washington one hundred years ago. The enterprise is developing alsome monument of national character, typiin its beauty and strength and utility of the republic and of the capital. No better form for such a creation could be devised than a bridge spanning the Potomac joining the city with the great national emetery, permitting freer access between the capital and one of the oldest of the states, and affording opportunity to pay fitting tribute to the men who have served

The tendency at present is for the comn ittees in charge of the project to apceach its consummation in a spirit of digy, to surround the affair with an atmo phere of national breadth, to hold it within ics of impressive propriety. The dedication or the starting of a memorial bridge suld of itself be a grandly solemn occasion, evoking lofty thoughts and deep memorles. If associated with this central feature of the occasion there be other forms of celebration, they will doubtless be planned and conducted in the same strain of patriotic fitness, thus maintaining the position of the capital as a city of great These deliberations now in progress are all upon this high plane of national thought and will doubtless be so conducted

te an appropriate finish. The Changing Aspect of the War. have caused great joy throughout England eday and have spread without confirmation through European capitals. They may easily that the Boer army around Ladysmith has of the sudden change of the burghers' plan of campaign. Buller's advance to Colenso furnishes additional evidence of this new condition, and it is quite within the range of probabilities that he has succeeded at last in fercing his way through to a junetion with General White's long-beleaguered forces. The relief of this city within a few days of that of Kimberley would materially alter the aspect of the war and relieve the British of a heavy burden of sentimental necessity. At the same time it seems that the tide of war has turned, the Boers now appearing to seek a heavy concentraforces either at or north of Bloem fontain to oppose the advance of Lord Roberts into the Free State and thence into the Transvaal. If this be the new course of events the British have probably entered upon a long task, that of slowly forcing the Boers back step by step, throwing heavy battalions upon intrenched positions and maneuvering for artillery emplacements and for flanking advances. There will be a resources to draw from the Boers would be in position to make the advance desperately costly to the British, if at all possible. But recent events have suggested that the British forces have at last been strengthened beyond the power of the Boers to resist, and that the burghers cannot draw further upon their reserves. If this is the case the chief problem of the British commanders need for very large armies south of the Boers' line, to preserve intact the lines of ommunication in an enemy's country and o hold a long range of strategic positions

If the progenitors of the D. A. R. had the intropid determination displayed by these ladies the English could not possibly reproach Lord Cornwallis for surrendering.

as the campaign progresses northward. It

will seriously tax the capacity of England

to maintain such an army while providing

for colonial and home defense, but it does

not seem to be doubted now that the gov-

ernment at London will find means to sup-

ply all the demands which Lord Roberts

may make upon it for troops or horses or

General Gallifet says the new French rifle is the best in the world. The fact remains that the deficiency in the French

army is not a matter of firearms.

Facts and Law.

It is not, of course, proper for laymen to take issue with the legal aspects of a decision of court, and this consideration has very generally prevailed throughout the District with respect to the attitude of the local public toward the recent decision in the telephone rate case. While the effect of this judgment has been widely deplored, as serving to complicate the already annoying over the 'phone charges, those unversed in the law have not felt qualified to quarrel with the interpretation of the Constitution and the statutes. But it so hap-peas that the court touched upon matters fact in the course of the decision which have challenged comment and contradiction. Thus, the court averred that the telephone company engaged here is using the most advanced methods and is giving the very best service known to the science. The fact is that the company is far behind the procession of improvements. It has not yet, for instance, adopted the "central energy" system, in use in certain northern cicles, which greatly simplifies and expedires the phone use. Its service, in comparison with the latest devices in practical use, is distinctly second-rate. The court furthermore proceeded to declare against the use of substations, or local switch ards, as unwarranted by the necessities of the situation and not desired by the company. As a matter of fact, it is known be the desire of the company to install this system of substations, which permit subscribers in certain neighborhoods or sec-tions of the city to talk to each other without calling the central office in the midof the city, thereby lessening the total expense of maintaining the switchboards and systematizing the work. Thus it ap-pears from these two instances that the court, in undertaking to exploit the virtues

particular, at least, there is a public chal-THE EVENING STAR. lenge of the court's declarations of fact. The decision points out that the books of the company show that the accounts were properly kept, with right distribution of course, impossible to prove with exactness the fallacies of the financial statements of such a corporation as this, with its relations to a parent company and with its many opportunities to minimize the dividend rate by increasing the stock and to cover questionable items by the use of technical terms or reference to scientific achievements. But it is nevertheless clear that in this case the maintenance charge been unduly swelled through the addition of items which relate strictly to the installation of new plant. It is, of course to the interest of the corporation to make the highest possible showing of maintenance cost in order to demonstrate an apparently reasonable ratio between the in come and the outlay. But it is altogether unjustifiable that expenditures should be charged against establishment, and which represent increased earning ca pacity, should be accounted for under the bead of maintenance. Yet the public un derstanding here is that such is the case with the telephone company's statistics, and that this fact has been virtually estab-In view of these matters, the local hope i

that the court was more sound in its enum ciation of the law than in its declaration of

The Centennial and the Avenue.

It wou'd be most appropriate if the se of the Capital Centennial Committee ould'be utilized to further the project of he development of Pennsylvania avenu as a great national boulevard, lined on the one side with public structures of significance and beauty and on the other with business structures of corresponding value and sightliness. This is a project in which all the states are interested. From every one of them at frequent intervals pours a stream of tourists, eager to see the capital in holiday gear, soldiers to participate in great pageants, officials to swell the lists of noted men in conclave or celebration. At such times Pennsylvania avenue becomes the center of interest, the scene of great events, the parade ground for processions unrivaled for size and sig-

Thus the governors could doubtless be interested in the renewed effort to securthe adoption of a broad policy of avenue At the same time those representatives and senators who are engaged on the com mittees may be approached in the true spirit of capital evolution which appeals so strongly to all who have come to understand the full possibilities of Washington in this direction. And the project in itself fits perfectly into the centra' theme of the meeting, the provision of proper methods of celebrating the establishment here of the seat of government. It would be indeed appropriate if, added to the institu tion of the memorial bridge, the year could be marked by the inauguration of this new policy, a fitting result of a century of captal making.

Washington in 1900 stands on the verge of great developments provided Congress will but recognize the opportunities here for profitable expenditures. It has been repeatedly demonstrated how economica would be the present purchase of all th land south of Pennsylvania avenue and running back to the Mall. It appears from time to time that new buildings are urg ently needed by the public service. Wha more seemly, therefore, than that these two conditions, an opportunity and a dea concrete enterprise of rare value to the eccasion for a vigorous pressing of the policy more serviceable, too, than the present, with this large gathering of sen ators, representatives, governors and citizens, intent upon finding ways and means of expressing the national thought suggested by the capital's first centenary?

The Lincoln Meeting. .

The result of the populist conference a Lincoln. Nebraska, is in line with expecta tion and the party's history. There would ndeed have been widespread surprise and no little disappointment if everything had gone off smoothly. When Greek meets Greek, and so forth. The populists are an aggressive and a strenuous lot, and this is a year which incites to vigorous thought literary bureau. wide field for skill in generalship in such a campaign, on both sides, and with greater contribute their full share to the gayety of the national campaign

The party is divided now into three fac tions: (1) those who, content with seeing their principles accepted by the democracy are willing to support a democratic na-tional ticket; (2) those who, for trading purposes, want a populist nominated as Mr. Bryan's running mate and then held sublect to withdrawal in the interests of har mony; and (3) those who want a straigh party ticket, so as to hold the party to gether and keep it unspotted from th everyday, sordid, grasping, political world. It is early in the year yet, and other fac tions may develop as the time passes. I is to be expected that they will. The party holds the record up to date for variety o views, and for a breezy assertion of them even at the expense of family rows. It would be to stint it therefore to limit it to three factions when thirty are possible and a dozen at least are likely

The case of Senator Butler of North Carolina is an interesting one, and shows how a populist may divide and disport himself when he is feeling really good. He is for Mr. Bryan for President, is advocating fusion with the democracy in support of him, and yet is considering a proposition to become the fusion candidate for governo of North Carolina against the democratic nominee. Let us suppose him nominated. The election for state officers takes place in August. Until August then he will be ham nering away for democratic defeat, and between August and November hammerin away for democratic success. Shall Mr Bryan be invited into the state to oppose Mr. Butler for governor, when as soon as the state race is over Mr. Butler, whether elected or not, is to take the stump for him for President? Imagine them meeting of the stump before the state election, and after it! Enemies now, comrades then!

But however much the populists may di vide and wrangle, the fact that they have imposed nearly all of their leading principles on Mr. Bryan and his democratic folowing remains, and should soothe them in hours of depression as to the future.

It will take the friends of the Boers good while to convince themselves that their present discomfiture is not merely an incident to another elaborate piece of strat-

Ex-Consul Macrum will of course realiz that in the crush of events some personal exertion may be necessary on his part to keep from dropping entirely out of sight.

The friends of Molineux have their sus picions that the jury was so intelligent that it undertook to try the case without the assistance of the lawyers.

New York in the Race.

Among the aspiring politicians of the younger New York set are the Hon. Tim Woodruff and the Hon. Ollie Belmont. The one is a republican, the other a democrat. Mr. Woodruff aspires to be the running mate of Mr. McKinley in the presidential race. Mr. Belmont aspires to be the run-ning mate of Mr. Bryan. Both are men of wealth and fashion. Mr. Woodruff is servpears from these two instances that the court, in undertaking to exploit the virtues of the company, did not fully represent its desires and opportunities. In one other

but both are men of education and exprethemselves with ease and readiness

Each is setting out this week upon ourney which it is thought will have a bearing on his political designs. This, how items among the various charges. It is, of ever, both disclaim. Mr. Woodruff goes west. He will speak in Detroit and Chiwhile away. His fame is as yet local, and in this way he will spread it. He will give the people of the provinces a taste of his on the great questions of the hour. But votes for the vice presidential nomination. He feels honored by the mention of his name in connection with the national race. for him, but he is not himself assisting or directing them. Mr. Belmont goes east-takes ship for

Europe. His wife is abroad, and he will join her. But the impression is strong that while absent he will call on Richard Croker in England, and that it is really for this purpose he leaves home. He recognizes Mr. Croker's power in New York affairs, and wants it exerted in his behalf in the trips about the country, and his vice presihas been as far as Texas in one direction. and as far as Kentucky in another. A crop of Bryan and Belmont buttons is on the market, and Mr. Belmont has dined Mr. Bryan at his New York residence But Tammany is a little cold toward his om, and only Mr. Croker can warm it up. Will the boss consent to build the fire? It is thought to be certain that the re publicans will draw upon the east for their vice presidential candidate, and hence Mr. Woodruff's activity seems in part justified. Many democrats, on the contrary, are advising against going east for their candidate. Still, Mr. Belmont is right. As he wants the place he must make a fight for it. It would never fall to him as an accident, or as a piece of luck.

The actress who shot her stage manager and is now going to star may have difficulty in getting assistance, in case she seems to be in need of more advertise

Governor Roosevelt has made it clear hat he will have to be consulted in the seection of any office for which he is to run.

Mr. Roberts of Utah is now in a position ward off curtain lectures by a threat to read those old speeches in his own defense It is interesting to note these days the

lose connection that exists between patriotism and millinery It now locks as if Boer sympathizers might have an occasion for active condo

SHOOTING STARS.

Commercial Candor. "Did you take any interest in the last

"Interest!" echoed Senator Sorghum. grieved accents. "I was mighty lucky to get my principal back."

A Sardonie Opinion.

George Washington was good and great But I'd be moved to doubt him f he had talked one-tenth as much As those who talk about him

Ready to Gloat.

"It won't be long," said the deposed Chiemperor, "before civilized institutions will hold full sway in Asia."

'Not very long," said the loyal courtier "Then we'll have a few trusts and street allway corporations and things of that kind.

"I can't help it. When we get all those things I guess mebbe the empress dowager won't act quite so haughty."

A Distinction. "Do you like rag-time music?"

"Yes," answered the highly cultured oung woman reluctantly. "But I always insist that it shall be called 'syncopation' before I give it my approval.

Promptly Answered.

"Do you think a man can do as good and effective work dictating as he can with a pen?" asked the attache of the campaign

"That's a foolish question," said the pracsuperior knowledge "You never heard of a man's dictating the signature to a check, did you?"

Oh. de snow it comes a-creepin Froo de crack beneaf de do'. An' de win' it come a-sweepin' An' I shiver when it blow. De crotches of de trees: An' I had ter eat de chickin. If I didn't it would freeze

Col' wave! Col' wave! Don't you come no Don't you keep a sighin' an' a pryin' roun' de do'

have.

Col Wave.

My vocal chords is stretchin' An' dey hu'ts me when I sings: An' de banjo, he is ketchin' Rheumatism in de strings. An' de prices makes me hollet Dey sho'ly frets my soul-

A quarter of a dollar Foh a half a peck o' coal! Col' wave! Col' wave! Don't you con

Stop voh pesterin' an' give de flowers chance to grow. flounders in de deep drif' an' I slips alon de pave

An' I doesn' want no mo'

Wave. Quay's Chances Not Promising.

Vashington Corr. New York Mail and Express. Washington Corr. New York Mail and Express.

The opinion seems to be gaining ground that Senator Quay's chances for getting his seat are growing less. While he has a majority of votes, some of the senators who are pledged to him are putting obstacles in the path for a vote on his case, and it looks as if they will prevent it coming to a vote, and thus keep him out by not acting on his case. The decision of the caucus last week which fixed the order of business, without giving the Quay case a place less. cus last week which fixed the order of business, without giving the Quay case a place in that order, is taken as an indication that the Senate has no intention of giving Mr. Quay a hearing. The former senator from Pennsylvania is back in Washington, and announces that he wants the matter settled, as he objects to a "ilingering death."

A Democratic View of Macrum.

rom the Louisville Courier-Journal, Whatever may be thought of Macrum's long statement, it is very clear that if it is to be accepted as testimony that he is not a coward it must be taken as proof that he is a fool. It would be impossible to recall any instance in which an adult American in a similar position has made such a spectacle of himself.

The First Step Toward Poverty.

From the St. Louis Star. Mr. Carnegie, now that the lawyers are interested in the distribution of his estate, will at least be relieved of some anxiety touching the danger of dying rich.

The Merit System a Fixture.

rom the Chicago Post. Today the merit system is so firmly im-bedded in our national administration that no party dare assume responsibility for any denial of appropriations that would impair its usefulness.

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you must take Cod Liver Oil to strengthen your lungs or cure your cough, by all means take our pure Norwegian Cod Liver Oil. Better than emulsions. 50c. pint.

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We've just received a fresh supply. Choice enough to go on any epicure's table. Young plump and tender-and priced reasonably. Ever tried "FINNAN HADDIE?" It's delicious. As sweet and delicate as spring chicken. No bones. A new lot just in. #7 Everything for DINNER PARTIES.

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SEWARD & CO., 730 7th St.

669999 Cures and Prevents Colds and La Grippe. 25c. Guaranteed; testi-monials. ATKINSON, 11th and G. and Druggists. Clears the head. Dr. Siegert's Angosturn Bitters, the most effi-acious stimulant to excite the appetite, keeps the ligentive organs in order.

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10th, 11th and F Streets N. W.

Store will be closed at 1 o'clock tomorrow, Washington's Birthday.

Tomorrow, Thursday, Special Sale of Women's Undergarments,

Representing only high-class goods of American manufacture, and comprising Elegant White Petticoats for evening wear and the less elaborate sorts for street and house use; also Night Gowns, Drawers, Corset Covers and Chemises.

The materials are principally fine Nainsooks and Cambrics. The trimmings are composed variously of fluffy laces, sheer and dainty embroideries, tucks and ribbons, and are applied in such styles as appeal to the most refined tastes.

This collection of Undergarments is the entire remaining stock of one of our most careful manufacturers, and consists of from one to a half dozen pieces of a kind, representing styles which he cannot or does not care to duplicate. Owing to this fact he closed them out to us

Very Much Below Regular Prices. We Offer Same at Proportionately Low Prices.

Art Needlework Department

Announces the arrival of new designs in Pillow Tops of linen in natural flax color, tinted and white canvas. etc., in a variety of beautiful floral and figured effects.

50c. each.

Boys' New Sailor Suits.

Spring clothing arriving daily. New Suits, new Shirt Waists, new Top Coats, new Hats, new Caps, etc. Among the Sailor Suits we note the following unusually good values: A tableful of All-weel Navy Blue Sallor Suits, prettilly trimmed with red, white or black silk braid-well-unde suits, full blouse and latest ef-fects; sizes 3 to 10.

A tableful of Sailor Suits, in fancy brown and gray mixtures, bandsomely trimmed and braided with fine silk braid; all wool; well made; sewed with silk-also some plain navy blues; sizes 3 to 12. \$4.25 each.

Hundreds of Sailor Suits, embedying all the lates ideas in out, finish and braiding; scores of styles in each size to choose from; sizes 3 to 12.

Third floor. Toilet

Articles. This department is splendidly prepared to supply all toilet requisites of

standard foreign and domestic manufacture. A very large assortment of Lotions, Eau de Quinine, Extracts, Cologne, Toilet and Sachet Powders, Toilet Waters, Tooth Powders, Soaps, Listerine; Ebony, Olive and Rosewood Hair Brushes, Kent's Celebrated English Hair Brushes, Bath and Complexion Brushes,

Chamois and Sponges.

Solid Back English

English Bristle Tooth Brushes, each. 10c. to 30c.
Bourjois Violet Face Powder, box. 55c. to \$1.25.
Bourjois Violet Toilet Powder, package. 10c.
Bourjois Violet Soap, cake. 25c.
Imported Violet Water, bottle. 25c.
Woodland's Violet Talcum Powder, box.
15c. and 25c.

Listerated Tooth Powder, box..... Jewelry

Department.

naments, Gold and Silver Articles of the more or less practical sorts, and many imported bits that are without duplicates.

Bath Room and Medicine Cabinets.

Great improvement is seen in this season's line of these highly practical and convenient articles. Adapted either to hang flat against wall or in corner, they represent great con-venience with utility, and are especially recommended as space savers With or without plate glass, according to price and design. Solid Oak Cabinets, with two shelves and ba catch; highly polished; in both the flat and corne designs.

\$1.50 each. Very handsome Golden Oak Medicine Cabinets, with carved door, lock and key, two shelves and space for tall bottles.

\$2.50 each. Neat and attractive Medicine Cabinets, similar the above, with heavy plate glass mirror in door.

\$3.00 each. Other Cabinets up to \$9.00.

Housefarnishing Dept.-Fifth floor.

Ten Books That People Are Reading.

The Light of Scarthey, by Egerton Castle. \$1.55. The Market Place, by Harold Frederic. \$1.15. The Market Place, by Harold Frederic. \$1.15. Richard Carvel, by W. Churchill. \$1.15. Richard Carvel, by W. Churchill. \$1.15. Hugh Wyane, by Dr. S. W. Mitchell, 2 vols \$1.50. Prisoners of Hope, by Miss M. Johnston. \$1.15. Ludice Meredath, by Paul L. Ford. \$1.15. Ludice Meredath, by Paul L. Ford. \$1.15. Ludice Meredath, by The Willoughby Claim, by Mrs. F. H. Burnett. \$1.15. Via Cracis, by F. M. Crawford. \$1.15. When Kuighthood Was in Flower, by Edwin Major. \$1.15.

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Constant changes are being made in Children's Carriages and Carts, and the variety, both as to style and price, which we offer, will be found decidedly interesting to those in need of anything of this character.

Twenty styles of carriages and thirty styles of Carts, all selected with the idea of service as well as attractiveness and beauty. Only the best materials enter into the construction and the springs and running gear cannot be improved upon. Roll Body Rattan Carriages, with removable cor-duroy appointery, rubber tires, patent brake, white satin parasol lined with green. A splendid value.

\$11.50 each. Handsome Rattan Carriages, with full roll lody nd finished same as the above.

\$15.00 each. Other Carriages up to \$40.00 each. Go-Carts of solid oak, good and substantial, with teel whiels, best springs and adjustable foot rest.

\$3.95 each. Reclining Go-Carts, substantially built, with rub-er tires, patent hub, patent brake, best springs and running gear. A special value.

\$5.00 each. Other Go-Carts up to \$20.00 each.

Agents for Standard Patterns.

These patterns are stylish, perfect fitting, easy to construct and are absolutely reliable. And they are so simple that the most inexperienced person can understand them.

5c. to 15c. each. None higher than 20c. "Standard Fashlons," published monthly by the tandard Fashlon Co., presenting the latest styles of the sesson, can be had free at the store, or will be mailed to any address.

Golf Girls.

Another lot of these very popular pictures, in two sizes and three styles. Small, unframed, 10x16, 50c. each. Novelties in Pulley Belts, Hair Or- Small, framed, 10x16, \$1.00 each. Large, unframed, 18x28, \$1.00 each.

Little Children's Coats

At Clearing Prices. All Children's Colored Coats remaining in stock in Infants' Department are offered at greatly reduced prices. They consist of plain and mixed cloths, in single and double cape effects and are variously trimmed with velvets, braids, etc.

\$3.50 each. Were \$6.50. \$5.00 each. Were \$7.50 and \$8.50. \$6.00 each. Were \$8.75 and \$10.50. \$7.50 each. Were \$15.00. \$10.00 each. Were \$15.50.

The Greatest Novel Of the Year.

If advance criticism is worth anything, Miss Mary Johnston's new

"To Have and to Hold,"

Which was published on Saturday the 17th instant, bids fair to be called the greatest book of the year. It is a story of colonial Virginia and is

brimful of love, romance and adventure. Her only other book, PRISONERS OF HOPE," now a year old, was and still is a famous seller. "To Have and to Hold"....\$1.15

"Prisoners of Hope".....\$1.15 Not published in paper.

the best Sweepers yet produced. The Cyco-bearing (easy running)

Sweeper, the axle of which works on a little wheel, is as much an improve-

ment to sweepers as ball bearings to bicycles. Reversible; picks up every

bit of dust both ways. Don't have to press hard on the handle, either

-a child can work it. Automatic dust pans, and a device that prevents

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Silk-finish Sateen Petticoats,

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Ladies' Strong Walking Boots -that defy the slush and snow-in black and

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in three weeks and still growing. Preserved Ginger—dainty, crisp, and spicy, in metal boxes, only 25c.

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Filter, \$2.

Watch Crystals, 10c. Mainsprings, 75c. Ex-pert in Swiss, English or American Watches.

DESKS, \$5 up. OFFICE CHAIRS, \$1.50 up.

The Woodward & Lothrop Sewing Machines, \$18 to \$36.